

have basically done everything right. They balanced their budget. They have a rainy-day fund. Yet they are still struggling to prepare for the future because even a healthy budget can't cover the cost of inflation. Supplies are too expensive. Raw materials are too expensive. Pipe for the water project is up 400 percent. Can't get transformers for utility projects. Can't keep all of the emergency vehicles and the schoolbuses and the county road department—those vehicles running because of the cost of diesel and what it has done.

What we know is that many things are just too expensive to afford. Money for luxuries? No. We have to keep the doors open, the lights on, keep them heated, and keep the buses running.

Everything from electrical equipment to parts for emergency vehicles comes with a big price tag. But there is something that Joe Biden and my Democratic colleagues could do about this. They could do it if they wanted to, if they chose to. It is amazing that they have chosen not to do this.

If the Democrats continue to spend, inflation will continue to rise. Economic growth will stagnate. The debt burden will become so large that future generations will never be able to escape it.

You know that debt burden right now is about \$95,000 per U.S. citizen? \$95,000. I have a grandchild due this year. When that baby is born, he is going to have his share—\$95,000—of our Nation's debt. Per taxpayer, that comes out to about a quarter million dollars. I would say: Is that moral, is it immoral to pass this on to our children and grandchildren?

This debt burden will be very difficult for future generations to escape. And the people who have already lost so much to this Big Government will continue to suffer. For 2 years, the Biden administration has appeared to ignore that type of suffering.

Now, I say "ignored" because it would be impossible for them to not know how obvious and unhappy the American people are with this impact of inflation and the cost of living on them every day. A Reuters poll recently released just before President Biden delivered his State of the Union Address shows that 65 percent of Americans think that this country is on the wrong track. A year ago, 58 percent of Americans believed we were on the wrong track. So it is safe to say that not only are they unhappy, they see this downward spiral that Joe Biden and the Democrats have thrown them into. The only way out of this is to get our fiscal house in order. And that does include cutting spending.

Last week, I introduced legislation to cut Federal spending by 1 percent. That is one penny out of every dollar. Every Agency should be able to save a penny out of their budget. And if they can do that 1 penny, maybe they could do 2 pennies; maybe they could do 5 pennies. We could pass those bills this

month to cut 1 percent, 2 percent, or 5 percent out of the budget. Putting politics aside, it is going to take making certain that we prioritize fiscal responsibility. The frustration that the American people feel with what has happened in this building on the Democrats' watch doesn't compare to the pain the people in this country feel when they explain to their kids why there is less food in their lunch boxes this week, why there are different food items on the table when they come home every night. But 13-percent food inflation—that is tough. That is tough on families. You couple that with the amount of inflation at the gas pump and life becomes incredibly expensive.

I yield the floor.

#### NOMINATION OF CINDY K. CHUNG

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Cindy Chung to a Pennsylvania seat on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Chung has worked in public service for two decades and is an accomplished litigator. She received degrees from Yale University and Columbia Law School before clerking for Judge Myron Thompson on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama.

Ms. Chung began her career as a prosecutor handling public corruption and other matters in the New York County District Attorney's Office before joining the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, where she prosecuted human trafficking and criminal civil rights violations, including the first case prosecuted under the Shepard-Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act. She then joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Pennsylvania where, for more than 7 years, she handled a range of criminal matters. In 2021, President Biden nominated Ms. Chung to serve as a U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and the Senate unanimously confirmed her to that role. As U.S. Attorney, Ms. Chung has prioritized the prosecution of hate crimes and violent crimes.

As a practicing attorney, Ms. Chung has appeared in both State and Federal court and has tried 24 cases to verdict. She has significant experience in the courtroom and was unanimously rated "well qualified" by the American Bar Association. Ms. Chung has deep ties to the Pennsylvania legal community and enjoys bipartisan support, having received positive blue slips from her home State Senators for her nomination in the 117th Congress, and a bipartisan vote out of committee. When confirmed, she will make history as the first AAPI judge on the Third Circuit.

I strongly support her nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the Chung nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Cindy K. Chung, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

#### VOTE ON CHUNG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Chung nomination?

Mr. CARPER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 44, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 9 Ex.]

##### YEAS—50

Baldwin	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Welch
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Ossoff	

##### NAYS—44

Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Paul	

##### NOT VOTING—6

Barrasso	Padilla	Sullivan
Heinrich	Sanders	Warnock

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby

move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 9, Gina R. Mendez-Miro, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Edward J. Markey, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Gina R. Mendez-Miro, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 10 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schumer
Booker	Kelly	Shaheen
Brown	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Lujan	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Collins	Menendez	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Ossoff	Wicker
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Graham	Reed	
Hassan	Rosen	

NAYS—44

Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Vance
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Heinrich
Fetterman	Padilla

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The yeas are 52, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONFIRMATION OF DEANDREA  
GIST BENJAMIN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise to speak on the confirmation of DeAndrea Benjamin to a South Carolina seat on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Benjamin has had a prominent career as both a litigator and as a jurist. She received degrees from Winthrop University and the University of South Carolina School of Law before clerking for Judge L. Casey Manning on South Carolina's Fifth Judicial Circuit. She then joined the South Carolina Fifth Judicial Circuit's solicitor's office as a State prosecutor and also served as a county juvenile drug court liaison. She later joined the South Carolina Attorney General's Office and was named the State Violence Against Women Prosecutor. In this role, she prosecuted cases statewide where violence was perpetrated against women and children. Judge Benjamin entered private practice after 3 years of public service and focused on employment law, including workplace discrimination claims. In 2004, she became a municipal judge for the city of Columbia, South Carolina. Seven years later, the South Carolina General Assembly elected her to serve as a circuit court judge in South Carolina's Fifth Judicial Circuit.

As a practicing attorney, Judge Benjamin appeared in both State and Federal court and tried 21 cases to verdict. In her time on the bench, she has presided over thousands of matters involving both civil and criminal issues, including over 300 trials.

Judge Benjamin has significant experience in the courtroom and was unanimously rated "qualified" by the American Bar Association. In addition, she has deep ties to the South Carolina legal community and enjoys bipartisan support, including from her Republican home-State Senators.

I strongly supported her nomination and was glad to see her confirmed.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
AND ADMINISTRATION RULES OF  
PROCEDURE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, the Committee on Rules and Administration has adopted rules governing its procedures for the 118th Congress. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, on behalf

of myself and Senator FISCHER, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the committee rules be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF PROCEDURE  
MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

Rule 1. The regular meeting dates of the Committee shall be the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 10:00 a.m., in room SR-301, Russell Senate Office Building. Additional meetings of the Committee may be called by the Chair as he or she may deem necessary or pursuant to the provision of paragraph 3 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Rule 2. Meetings of the Committee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by the Committee on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in subparagraphs (a) through (f) would require the meeting to be closed followed immediately by a recorded vote in open session by a majority of the Members of the Committee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings:

(a) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(b) will relate solely to matters of the Committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(c) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(d) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(e) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if:

(1) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(2) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(f) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under the provisions of law or Government regulations. (Paragraph 5(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

Rule 3. Written notices of Committee meetings will normally be sent by the Committee's staff director to all Members of the Committee at least a week in advance. In addition, the Committee staff will telephone or e-mail reminders of Committee meetings to all Members of the Committee or to the appropriate assistants in their offices.

Rule 4. A copy of the Committee's intended agenda enumerating separate items of legislative business and Committee business will normally be sent to all Members of the Committee and released to the public at least 1 day in advance of all meetings. This does not